

Federal Communications Commission

§ 1.720

amended, or by Commission order in any proceeding, no written statement indicating intent to appear need be filed in advance of actual appearance at any hearing by any person or his attorney.

(b) *Oral arguments.* Within 5 days after release of an order designating an initial decision for oral argument or within such other time as may be specified in the order, any party who wishes to participate in the oral argument shall file a written statement indicating that he will appear and participate. Within such time as may be specified in an order designating any other matter for oral argument, any person wishing to participate in the The Commission will advise him whether he may participate. (See §1.277 for penalties for failure to file appearance statements in proceedings involving oral arguments on initial decisions.)

(c) *Commission counsel.* The requirement of paragraph (b) of this section shall not apply to counsel representing the Commission or the Chief of the Common Carrier Bureau.

COMPLAINTS

§ 1.711 Formal or informal complaints.

Complaints filed against carriers under section 208 of the Communications Act may be either formal or informal.

INFORMAL COMPLAINTS

§ 1.716 Form.

An informal complaint shall be in writing and should contain: (a) The name, address and telephone number of the complaint, (b) the name of the carrier against which the complaint is made, (c) a complete statement of the facts tending to show that such carrier did or omitted to do anything in contravention of the Communications Act, and (d) the specific relief of satisfaction sought.

[51 FR 16039, Apr. 30, 1986]

§ 1.717 Procedure.

The Commission will forward informal complaints to the appropriate carrier for investigation. The carrier will, within such time as may be prescribed, advise the Commission in writing, with

a copy to the complainant, of its satisfaction of the complaint or of its refusal or inability to do so. Where there are clear indications from the carrier's report or from other communications with the parties that the complaint has been satisfied, the Commission may, in its discretion, consider a complaint proceeding to be closed, without response to the complainant. In all other cases, the Commission will contact the complainant regarding its review and disposition of the matters raised. If the complainant is not satisfied by the carrier's response and the Commission's disposition, it may file a formal complaint in accordance with §1.721 of this part.

[51 FR 16039, Apr. 30, 1986]

§ 1.718 Unsatisfied informal complaints; formal complaints relating back to the filing dates of informal complaints.

When an informal complaint has not been satisfied pursuant to §1.717, the complainant may file a formal complaint with this Commission in the form specified in §1.721. Such filing will be deemed to relate back to the filing date of the informal complaint: *Provided*, That the formal complaint: (a) Is filed within 6 months from the date of the carrier's report, (b) makes reference to the date of the informal complaint, and (c) is based on the same cause of action as the informal complaint. If no formal complaint is filed within the 6-month period, the complainant will be deemed to have abandoned the unsatisfied informal complaint.

[51 FR 16040, Apr. 30, 1986]

FORMAL COMPLAINTS

§ 1.720 General pleading requirements.

Formal complaint proceedings are generally resolved on a written record consisting of a complaint, answer and reply but may also include other written submissions such as briefs and written interrogatories. All written submissions, both substantive and procedural, must conform to the following standards:

(a) Pleadings must be clear, concise, and explicit. All matters concerning a